Bud's Copy

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2000

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Many of our questions in regards to the classes of licenses and what we must do to upgrade have finally been answered by the FCC. Effective 4/15/2000 there will be only the Technician, General and Extra Class licenses. There will be four (4) different exams: Element 1 5 WPM Code, Element 2 Technician Theory, Element 3 General Theory and Element 4 Extra Theory. The Novice and Advanced will no longer be available for new entries. Holders of Novice, Tech+ and Advanced licenses may renew the same indefinitely. A recap of the soon-to-be mode as defined by ARRL is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lou, N2CTQ is in Sea Pines Rehab Center in Melbourne. We want to keep him in mind and we all hope for a speedy recovery.

I was pleasantly surprised to have a visit from a couple of our members - Jim KC4VMP and Donna KC4VMQ. They are in the process of renewing their license. Sure wish they would get active on 2 meters....hint, hint!

Sherry and I hope that Santa was good to every one and that the New Year will bring health, happiness and riches to everyone.

Hope to see you at the meeting on January 25.

SPECIAL BULLETIN

From ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT., DEC. 30, 1999
.....Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. The FCC today issued its long-awaited Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 – more commonly known as "license restructuring." The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes - Technician, General and Amateur Extra - and a single Morse code requirement - -5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts." Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to ...see page 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 1 KF4OXV PEGGY MILLER
JAN. 3 KE4AGO BILL REALY
JAN. 6 KB0OQJ KENNETH HITCHCOCK
JAN. 8 N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
JAN. 8 N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
JAN. 9 KF4ECM JIM LATHROP
JAN. 10 AA1HB CHARLIE CHENEY
JAN. 12 KE4NYM MATT KELLER
JAN. 12 K4WSE JOHN WOOD
JAN. 13 KE4TTZ SANDY THORNE
JAN. 14 KU4LJ KEN NADELL
JAN. 17 KO4NQ FRENCHY POULIN
JAN. 20 KE4TQZ SANDRA GREENWALD
JAN. 21 KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
JAN. 21 KT4SY EDDIE GASS
JAN. 23 KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS
JAN. 23 KF4GPF JOE MEYERS
JAN. 26 KF4UDM BRIAN HUNTER
JAN. 26 K4SJC LES GRINER
JAN. 28 WA4JWU ROGER VERBLE
JAN. 28 N1WBU ART DEANGELIS
JAN. 28 KF4VRR DONALD PATTEN
JAN. 29 000000 ANTHONY SINI

Special Bulletin.....from page 1
adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF sidebands will remain and not be "refarmed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not refarm these subbands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them. As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. "If documentation is needed to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy documentation, we may request the documentation from that licensee or the VECs," the FCC said.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 wpm code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. "After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide emergency communications," the FCC said.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35 question written test to

obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra - especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test. Elimination of the 13 and 20 word WPM Morse requirements also means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Advanced licensees. Between now and April 15, current Advanced holders may take the existing element 4B, a 40-question test, giving them credit for having passed the current Extra written examination. Likewise, holders of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Elements 3B or 4B dated on or after April 17, 1999, will be able to qualify for General or Amateur Extra respectively when the new rules go into effect on April 15, 2000.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. "We believe that in light of ongoing discussions concerning implementation of new and more modern communications technologies within the amateur service community, we whould accord the amateur service community an opportunity to complete such discussions and possibly reach a consensus regarding implementation of new technologies before we undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the amateur service operating privileges and frequencies," the FCC said in its Report and Order.

In its amendments to Part 97, the FCC's Report and Order refers to a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator," something that does not exist under the current rules and which was not explained in the R&O itself. An FCC spokesperson said the Commission plans to issue a Public Notice soon to explain the program and to solicit qualified entities to serve as call sign administrators for club station applications.

A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC-412) is available at:

http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98143ro.pdfo or at: http://www.fcc.gov/Daily Releases/Daily Business/1999/db991230/f

Happy New Year to you and yours.
Jerry Shultz DE KV4BE 73's

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Becky,

Here's an interesting item you might want to use in a forthcoming newsletter. Last Tuesday, Dec. 15, on my regular broadcast on WTLS in Syracuse, NY, I said to Phil, I will send a box of citrus to the first 10 people who send me a Christmas card. 2 days later the mailman delivered 15 cards; the next day 4 more, and 2 more the next day for a total of 21 cards. They applauded my talent plus the shuttle data that I gave them.

I didn't have the heart to turn anyone down, so starting in 2 weeks when the "Honeybells" are available, I'm going to ship to all of them a box of fruit. I hope my New York fans will appreciate it.

Bill, W2SDB

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

COMPUTERS & HAM RADIO

From CyberSkip 12/99
By Clark J. Evans WA4DLL

Computers and Ham Radio have some elements in common

The basic of ham radio is digital. Ham radio starts with Morse code or continuous wave (cs). Morse code is On and Off of the transmitter. So if the transmitter is on, we have a one - and if off, we have a zero. Where did I hear of ones and zeros before? They are the language used by computers.

A dit in Morse code is as fast as you can send it with a Morse code key and a dah is three time longer than a dit. How, you may ask, did Samuel Morse come up with the different beats of dits and dahs for each letter? He went to the local printer and asked him to keep track of the number of letters he used each day by letters. The one the printer used most often was "E" so Samuel assigned it a dit. The least used letters were given the most dits and dahs. Example: he gave "Z" dah dah dit dit.

One can get a Morse code message through when you can't get a voice message through because Morse code is digital.

So what else in ham radio is computer related? Packet radio is sending messages around the world by digital, computer to computer links around the world.

Next we have satellites through which we transmit. Most ham radio satellites are on a low orbit of 200 to 300 miles above the earth. This includes the MIR, space shuttles, and the Hubble. Because of the low orbit, you only have about eight to ten minutes for communication while they pass over you. That is why we use computers to keep track of them so we know when they are flying over and we can make contact through them.

The Federal Government asks ham radio operators to do one thing when they pass their tests and get an amateur radio license. Help provide communications for Red Cross and Federal, State and County Governments when hurricanes or any disaster happens.

Ham radio operators will use any form of communication to get the message through. Radio, Morse code, voice, computers and satellites.

B.C.N.U. on the airways and the computer.

HEARTS APART

From 1/00 QST Correspondence

And you thought you'd run out of ideas on how to use Amateur Radio?

I was on temporary duty assignment with the Air Force in Port-au-Prince, Haiti during the summer of 1999. My wife and son were back at my home station at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. (That's near Fairbanks for those following along in their atlas.) My wife is KL0DD, a relatively new Technician and I am KL0AN, an Advanced operator having been licensed for a little over two years.

When Air Force members are deployed, most bases set up a program for the spouses called "Hearts Apart." The spouses are assigned a special code number to give telephone operators so that the operators will call the deployed member at no cost. The spouses are allowed two or three 15 minute calls each week.

Here's where it gets interesting. My wife was in town shopping in her Bronco when it just quit running. She got on her 2-meter mobile transceiver and, accessing the autopatch of the KL7KC repeater, called a friend and asked for assistance. When he showed up, there wasn't much he could do so my wife said, "Let me call my husband and see if he has any ideas." Well, she accessed the autopatch again, called the operator at the Air Force base, gave her the Hearts Apart number, and contacted me in Haiti! When I heard her voice on the phone, I heard some scratchiness in the audio. I had to ask if she was using the 2-

meter radio and she replied in the affirmative. I was truly amazed at her ingenuity!

I'm sorry to say that this story doesn't have a happy ending as far as the Bronco was concerned. I was fresh out of repair ideas. On the other hand, we've gained a new respect for the practical usefulness of Amateur Radio. *Paul Jordan, KL0AN, Fairbanks, Alaska*

Ed. Note: Paul Jordan is the son of TARC members Jo Jordan KE4AEB and Kay Jordan KE4MXF. Paul has submitted several articles to the TARC newsletter about the dog sled races in Alaska.

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

From 12/99 QST Technical Correspondence
By Don Bailey, W7SDE, Reno NV

As a retired Electrical and Electronics Engineer, I really enjoyed Kirk (NT0Z) Kleinschmidt's article on portable generators. During my 75 years, I have had a little experience with the subject items. There is one area that I cannot but stick my nose into - the subject of grounding. I am a very firm believer in grounding as long as it is done in the interest of safety. Consider the grounding of the neutral wire as is recommended by some and required by others. First, the case of portable generators: *Without* the neutral grounded, you could maintain a firm grip on the hot wire while standing in water up to your neck and not get an electrical shock! It takes a return path for current to flow. If ground is eliminated as a return path, the danger from shock is reduced from some faulty electrical circuits at some place in the Field Day activity.

These faulty circuits could be as simple as a shorted line bypass capacitor in a piece of equipment. If this equipment were connected to your normal house power, it would blow a fuse or trip a breaker. Standing on damp earth at a Field Day location could be fatal to someone if the neutral wire was grounded to the generator. Static electricity should be drained off through a 1-MΩ, ½-W resistor connected from neutral wire to earth ground. Also, a pair or 0.1-uF, 600 V capacitors connected between each line to ground will shunt any RF picked up on the power cabling. A good earth ground is also the best lightning protection. (Lightning grounding is a discipline in itself). Building codes require secondary electrical systems to be grounded for safety. An example:

Back in the '50s, I was doing some repair work at a local laundry. A three-phase motor on a machine was overheating and I wanted to measure the line voltage. While making measurements, with the meter on the 500 V scale, the meter needle banged the stop when I probed from line to ground. Changing meter ranges, I discovered the potential to ground was 1200 V! I immediately called the local power utility and within a few minutes an engineer confirmed my findings. A few minutes more and a crew of linemen was busy changing a transformer that supplied power to the laundry. Neither the transformer ground nor the building ground was functioning as it should. Leakage between the high-voltage primary and the secondary winding was to blame. I have always been a safety nut and have analyzed many different situations from a safety standpoint. There can be insidious situations that may defy casual observation. Grounding the neutral of a portable power generator is one of them. I sincerely hope and pray everyone has happy and safe Field Days.

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

. By Pike W4EPU

Yet Another Hobo Christmas Story:

After having read Abell's anecdote of a couple of months ago, about my visits to Hobo Donic when I was a boy, a friend told me about an experience he had with a hobo. The following is his account, to the best of my recollection. He said:

"My wife and I were on our way to spend Christmas with relatives. We stopped for lunch in Orlando. We noticed a man setting alone at a corner table drinking coffee. He was obviously an indigent person. He had a shaggy beard, uncombed hair, a ragged and wrinkled coat and a back pack in a chair next to him. I considered the possibility of offering to threat him to lunch.

"As I approached his table I noticed he was wearing an expensive looking wrist watch. My attention suddenly focused on the watch, which caused me to have second thoughts about alms giving. We exchanged greetings, then I made a comment about the watch.

As we talked, I realized he was as hungry for someone to talk to as I assume he was for food. He explained that the watch was his only worldly possession. Everything else was gone. In the past he had lost his wife, his home and his job. He was devastated. One day he realized that the only tangible possession he had left was his watch. He contemplated hocking the watch. But decided against it because that would simply buy a few meals and a little more time. He kept his watch. At that point he said he simply gave up on life and hit the streets. He had been there ever since. He said 'as I live and die, I will never give up my Rolex.'

"I said 'Merry Christmas'. He responded "and a merry Christmas to you.' I was skeptical but impressed and touched by his story.

"Back at my table, after some discussion, it being Christmas and all, we decided to forget the skepticism. My wife called the waitress over and instructed her to take the man's order and give us the check."

Happy New Year everyone and 73s es 88s
Pike W4EPU and Clara KE4YQL

FOR WOMEN HAMS ONLY

QUOTES FROM OTHER SMART WOMEN

I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb.....and I also know I'm not blonde. Dolly Parton

You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but the hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy. Erica Jong

I want to have children, but my friends scare me. One friend told me she was in labor for 36 hrs. I don't even want to do anything that feels good for 36 hrs. Rita Rudner

Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth. Erma Bombeck

If high heels were so wonderful, men would still be wearing them. Sue Grafton

I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on. Roseanne Barr

I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch. Gilda Radner.

In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman. Margaret Thatcher.

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. Eleanor Roosevelt.

TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 1998	$6634.75
Deposits Year to Date	6249.99
TOTAL INCOME	**$12884.74**
Expenditures	8569.30
BALANCE AS AT 12/30/99	**$4315.44**

DECEMBER MINUTES

By Becky, KF4HTB

The TARC Christmas party was held on December 11 at the Elk's Club.

Clara, KE4YQL; Pike, W4EPU; Stephanie, KD4JMX; Anthony, KG4EB and his daughters, presented a most enjoyable program. The 2000 officers were installed.The Soap on a Rope Award went to Carol Ramos KC4VIN and the Ham of the Year Award went to Becky Lee KF4HTB. Santa was there for the gift exchange.

Sherry and her food crew provided the dessert packages. There was also music and dancing.

A good time was had by all.

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How can I prove I am not crazy to people who are?

Club Officers

President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 267-3450
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 407-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

Elected Board Members

Ken Denman, KD4HNW. 269-5711
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Grant Hahne, KF4IGK. 269-6484
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO

Repeater Custodian Board Members

Les Griner, K4SJV (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

Club Information

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building
Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

"Herman fixed the washer!"

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 227 (155 regular, 54 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS: KB4ATB WILBUR LEGRO

RENEWALS: K4BZJ LES WIDICk ✓ KG4GBA WALTER
KF4IGB PAT WIDICK ✓
AA4FY NORM FOSTER ✓
KF5IGO JUNE FOSTER ✓
KD4HNW KEN DENMAN ✓
KF4KUN SAMUEL DENMAN ✓
AA4HP HANK PHILLIPS ✓
K4MVO STEPHANIE PHILLIPS ✓
WD8JLT BRIAN SONNENBERG ✓
KU4LA JOE TIPTON Jr ✓
K2SFG GEORGE FLORES ← KZ5FG ✓
KK4SH VINCE GONZALEZ ✓
KE4MXC JEAN GONZALEZ ✓
KS4YH JOHN TOWER ✓

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ok Bud 12/13/00

HAMFESTS:

1/8-9	Ft. Meyers
1/29	Arcadia
2/5	Pensacola
2/5-6	Miami
2/13-14	Orlando
2/19-29	Sarasota